

8. (Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein the stimulus-responsive gene probe is a common stimulus-responsive gene probe.
9. (Amended) A method of diagnosing infection by a pathogen in a mammal comprising the steps of:
- a) isolating mRNA from one or more dendritic cells in a mammal;
 - b) determining gene expression of at least one stimulus-specific gene, wherein expression of a stimulus-specific gene is indicative of infection by a pathogen to which the stimulus-specific gene is specific.
12. (Amended) A method for predicting prognosis for an infected individual comprising analyzing gene profiles of stimulus-responsive genes, wherein a gene profile is correlated with a clinical prognosis.
18. (Amended) An *ex vivo* therapeutic treatment for a disorder selected from the group consisting of pathogenic infection, tumor, and autoimmunity comprising the steps of:
- a) contacting a patient's dendritic cells with an agent selected from the group consisting of a pathogen, a tumor and a self-antigen, or components thereof, such that said dendritic cells become activated;
 - b) returning activated dendritic cells to the patient such that activated dendritic cells trigger an immune response against said pathogen, tumor or self-antigen.
55. (Amended) A method of diagnosing infection in a mammal comprising the steps of:
- a) isolating proteins from one or more dendritic cells from said mammal;